

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, Applicants amend claims 1, 27, 28, and 31.

In the Office Action mailed May 11, 2004, Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 11-16, 20-25, and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jou (WO 99/14878) hereinafter referred to as Jou in view of Suzuki (EP 0825741 A2) hereinafter referred to as Suzuki.

Claims 8-10, 17-19, and 26 are objected to as depending upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten to include all features of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims so as not to depend upon the rejected base claims.

Applicants respectfully respond to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-7, 11-16, 20-25, and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jou in view of Suzuki.

Applicants amend independent claims 1, 27, 28, and 31 to include the feature that each circuit is specific to a particular service. This amendment is supported in Applicants' specification as originally filed. Please see pages 36 to 38 which discuss multiplexing differentiated services using various circuits. Jou in combination with Suzuki does not teach the use of circuits specific to a particular service. Therefore, all of Applicants claims are patentable over Jou in combination with Suzuki.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-10, 17-19, and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As explained above, all of the base claims are patentable and therefore all Applicants' claims, including rejected claims 8-10, 17-19, and 26 should be allowed.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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